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## **Sen. Brown renews efforts to expand recycling statewide**

**LANSING** – Michigan’s lagging recycling rate, the lowest of all Great Lakes states, is the target of legislation introduced last week by state Sen. Cameron S. Brown, R-Fawn River Township.

“I am committed to doing everything possible to bring recycling opportunities to all Michigan residents,” Brown said. “The stewards of our state care about protecting our environment and it is the Legislature’s constitutional duty to be an effective partner in this effort to increase recycling. Michigan must be a leader, not a follower in this campaign against waste.”

Brown chaired the Senate Beverage Container and Recycling Task Force which issued a series of 43 recommendations aimed at increasing the state’s current 20 percent recycling rate. It has been at least 20 years since such an aggressive wide-ranging plan has been put forward by the Legislature.

A key recommendation of the panel was to establish an advisory council that would help set both a short and long term agenda for new recycling efforts. Senate Bill 676, introduced by Brown last week, would implement such a council.

Other key components of the legislative package include creation of a statewide education program, including the approach of bringing recycling education into the current driver’s training program and the establishment of a new check-off on income tax forms so all Michigan residents can contribute and help fund statewide recycling. The task force believes this approach is unique throughout the country.

Brown spearheaded efforts to pass a 13-bill package last session only to have the governor veto critical components.

“The Senate is serious about improving recycling,” Brown said. “I will not let the good work we did with Michigan residents through our task force go to waste – we must act now while we have this opportunity.”

Brown expects to work closely in moving legislation this fall with package co-sponsor Patty Birkholz, R-Saugatuck Township, chair of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs.

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